

- 168 Shieldrake. *Anas Tadorna.*
 169 ** Wigeon. *Anas Penelope.*
 170 ** Pochard. *Anas ferina.*
 171 ** Pintail Duck. *Anas acuta.*
 172 ** Golden Eye. *Anas Clangula.*
 173 Teal. *Anas Crecca.*

GENUS LI. Pelican:

- 174 Corvorant. *Pelecanus Carbo.*
 175 *** Gannet. *Pelecanus bassanus.*
 Once shot in this neighbourhood.

N. B. One asterisk (*) immediately after the number affixed to the bird, signifies a summer bird of passage; two asterisks (**) a winter bird of passage; and three (***) an occasional visitor, or bird whose migration is irregular and uncertain. The rest, without any asterisk, are supposed to be resident here in this island, throughout the whole year.

NOTES, or REMARKS, on the foregoing CATALOGUE.

- No. 6.—Henharrier. *Falco cyaneus.* }
 Ringtail. *Falco Pygargus.* }

SEVERAL years ago I shot two of the blue grey Hawk, or Henharrier, which differed considerably in the colour of their plumage. The first was of a light ash-colour, marked with reddish oblong spots on the breast and hinder part of the head, like the figure in the folio edition of the British Zoology; the other had none of these

these oblong reddish spots, either on the breast or hinder part of the head, but was all over of the same pale ash-colour, becoming gradually lighter on the under side to the belly, which was white. This induced me to conclude (perhaps too hastily) that these two birds were male and female of the same species, and that the brown hawk, with a white rump or ring-tail, was a different species; but a gentleman in this neighbourhood lately informed me, that his game-keeper, some time last summer, killed both the Hen-harrier and the Ringtail from the same nest, and that there is no doubt of their being male and female of the same species. If so, the difference in the colour of my two birds must arise from their different ages; the first, with reddish spots, being, as I suppose, the youngest, and still retaining somewhat of the ferruginous colour of the Ringtail; the other, which was all over of a light ash-colour, I suppose to have been an old bird, and had attained to its full colour.

No. 12.—Dark brown Hawk or Buzzard.

In the winter 1792, two of these birds were observed to frequent the high trees in Denn Park, in pursuit of the rooks. One of them was taken, and kept alive in the garden, where I found it, and made a drawing and description of it. If it is not a variety of the Moor Buzzard, *Falco aruginosus*, it probably is a new British species; for I cannot find, either in Mr. Pennant's or Mr. Latham's works, any description that perfectly agrees with it. It seems to me to be of less dimensions, of a more slender make, and more active than the Moor Buzzard: but, as I never had this latter bird in my possession, I cannot form a proper judgment upon it.

No. 21.—Hooded or Royston Crow. *Corvus Cornix*.

This bird is, with respect to us, a bird of passage, being seen only in the winter, and then only near the sea-side. On the 30th
of

of March 1790, as I was walking in my land, which is about four miles distant from the sea-shore, I saw, what I thought had the appearance of migration in these birds, a small flock of them (less than twenty in number), having passed steadily by me from the sea towards the north.

No. 25.—Red-legged Crow. *Corvus Graculus*.

This bird frequents the South Downs about Beachy Head and East Bourn, where it is called the Red-billed Jack-daw.

No. 26.—The Roller. *Coracias Garrula*.

This uncommon bird was killed in our neighbourhood: I made a drawing from its skin, which differed, in some respects, from Mr. Edward's figure; whence I had reason to think that mine was a young bird of the preceding year, driven across the sea into this island by the stormy weather which prevailed about that time.

No. 27.—The Cuckoo. *Cuculus canorus*.

The old birds of this species leave us when they cease to sing, which is about the latter end of June; but the young ones are sometimes seen very late in the autumn,—as late as the 28th of September.

No. 34.—The Hoopoe. *Upupa Epops*.

I once had this beautiful bird alive in my possession; and, at another time, one of these birds flew before my horse, near East Bourn in this county, and suffered me to approach near enough to distinguish its colour, and even its crest, though it carried the latter folded up as it flew. From what I could observe in both these birds, it seems to resemble the Jay in its habits, particularly in its note or screech, and in its manner of flying.

No. 44.

No. 44.—The Chatterer. *Ampelis Garrulus*.

This rare bird sometimes makes its appearance here in hard winters: I have met with two instances of it.

No. 45.—The Cross-bill. *Loxia Curvirostra*.

I have known two or three instances of this bird being killed in the neighbourhood. A male bird of this species was sent me by a friend on the 15th of January 1795.

No. 46.—The Hawfinch. *Loxia Coccothraustes*.

Two instances of this bird's being met with here, in hard winters, have fallen within my observation.

No. 54.—The Chaffinch. *Fringilla cælebs*.

Mr. White, in his Natural History of Selborne, asserts, that only the hen Chaffinches are to be seen in winter at that place; or, at most, but very few cocks among them. Such a circumstance (which confirms Linnæus's account of the migration of the female Chaffinches only) happening so near to this place as the very next county, has induced me to take particular notice of these birds, especially in the winter. Not long since, as I was riding, I observed a number of Chaffinches in the hedges on each side of the road, and, as far as I could distinguish, most of them appeared to be cocks. I now began to think that I had discovered some traces of this partial migration, and that the hens were gone, and had left their mates behind them: but my subsequent observations have not tended to confirm this idea; for, since that time, I have seen at least as many hens as cocks; particularly on the 22d of this month, January 1795, nineteen of these birds were killed and brought to me. On examination, there proved to be ten females and nine males; so that I must revert back to my original opinion, that no such partial migration of one sex only takes place here.

No. 55.

No. 55.—The Brambling. *Fringilla Montifringilla.*

This bird is sometimes driven hither (as I suppose) by the severity of the winter in more northern countries. I have met with a few instances of it in very hard winters.

No. 57.—The Siskin. *Fringilla Spinus.*

The visits of this bird to us in this neighbourhood seem to be very irregular and uncertain. Some years ago, I saw it several times, in the month of April only, frequenting some fir-trees near my house, as may be seen in my Table published in the First Volume of the Linnean Transactions; but for these last fourteen years I have never seen it once.

No. 59.—The spotted Flycatcher. *Muscicapa Grisola.*

The chief food of this bird being flies, it does not make its appearance here till late in the spring,—never before May. A pair of these birds have constantly built their nest, every year, in the same hole of the wall of my house, for a great number of years; which leaves but little room to doubt, that the same individual birds return every year to the same place to build their nest. From whence do they come? Do they come from a far distant country (lying perhaps on the other side the equator), and repair annually to the same identical spot for the purpose of incubation? or, Do they, at the proper season of the year, come out from their hiding-place near at hand, where they have passed the winter in a torpid state, secure from the severity of that season?

No. 69.—The greater Pettychaps. *Sylvia hortensis.*

I have had two birds in my possession, which, from their size, I am persuaded were of this species: there was some difference in their colour, one being of a more olivaceous green than the other; and

and also in their size, but both of them, were larger than the common Pettychaps, *Sylvia Hippolais*.

No. 74.—The Sedge Warbler. *Sylvia falicaria*.

This bird is seen here only in the summer, and is then not very common; it is a very lively active bird, which frequents the reeds near ponds, and sings very prettily.

No. 78.—The Wheat-ear. *Sylvia Oenanthe*.

This little bird, which is found in great plenty on our South Downs, is justly esteemed a great delicacy for the table, and vast numbers of them are annually caught in traps by the shepherds as they tend their flocks. These Wheat-ear traps consist of horse-hair nooses, placed under a sod of turf dug out of the ground for that purpose. They are first set up every year on St. James's day, the 25th of July, soon after which time they are caught in numbers truly astonishing, when we reflect that it is a solitary bird, more than two or three being scarcely ever seen together. Observing that all the birds which were caught in the proper season had the same coloured plumage as the hen bird, I made some enquiries respecting them of a shepherd at East Bourn, who informed me, that the flights consisted chiefly of young birds, which arrived in the greatest numbers when a westerly wind prevailed, and that they always came against the wind. He told me that on the 15th and 16th of August 1792 he caught twenty-seven dozen with only a few old birds amongst them; but this is a small number when compared with the almost incredible quantity sometimes taken. A Gentleman informed me, that his father's shepherd once caught eighty-four dozen in one day. Early in the spring only a few old birds are to be seen, and none (that I could ever observe) in the winter. I enquired of the shepherd whether these birds breed on the South Downs: the answer was, A few only.

No. 80.—The Gold-crested Wren. *Sylvia Regulus*.

This, I believe, is the smallest bird in Europe; yet, notwithstanding its diminutive size, it is able to brave our severest winters, as I have before observed. Being very small, fond of solitude, and living chiefly in the woods, it is not often observed; but I am inclined to think that these birds abound in greater numbers than is generally supposed, because, on the 4th of January 1792, I counted eight or nine of them playing about in a short cut copse within my sight at the same time. In summer it sings very prettily; its note is weak, as may be supposed from its size, but melodious. Where and how it breeds, I know not, having never seen its nest.

No. 81.—The common Willow Wren. *Sylvia Trochilus*.

I have not yet been able to ascertain the three different varieties of this bird mentioned by Mr. White in his Natural History of Selborne. I have more than once shot it in the very act of uttering its sibilous shivering note, spoken of by that Gentleman; but when I got it into my possession, instead of being his largest Willow Wren, it proved to be the common kind, or *Motacilla Trochilus* of Linnæus. It is an elegant, lively, active little bird, which is very common here in the summer; and I once found its nest at the bottom of a furze bush.

No. 86.—The long-tailed Titmouse. *Parus caudatus*.

These birds are seen in small flocks or companies together in the winter time, flying from bough to bough in the woods and hedges.

No. 89.—The Sand Martin. *Hirundo riparia*.

Not far from my house is a sand-pit, where these birds have made many holes, and build their nests every year. By frequently
visiting

visiting this pit in the spring, I have pretty accurately ascertained the time of their arrival, or first appearance, to be early in the month of May. In the year 1789 none were to be seen on the 28th of April, but on the 6th of May several were flying about the holes. In 1790, on the 8th of May none were to be seen, but on the 12th of the same month several made their appearance. In 1791 I visited the pit on the 5th and 7th of May, but could discover no birds; yet on the 10th, when I visited it again, several were flying about. Since that time my further observations have been prevented by some House Sparrows having taken possession of the holes, and driven away the Sand Martins.

No. 90.—The Swift. *Hirundo Apus.*

During my residence at East Bourn in the year 1792 I had an opportunity of marking the time of the departure or disappearance of these birds with some accuracy. I lodged near the church, round which building I used constantly to see them playing on the wing till the 10th of August, after which day not one was to be seen.

No. 102.—The Quail. *Perdix Coturnix.*

These birds undoubtedly breed on our South Downs, and in the autumn are found by the sportsmen in the stubbles in bevvies or broods several together. It is probable that most of them migrate; but that they do not all leave this country I can aver, for I well remember, that, in company with a friend, we found three or four brace of quails in one morning in the middle of winter (about Christmas) in a field of turneps at East Bourn.

No. 104.—The thick-kneed Bustard. *Otis oedipnemus.*

It is called here the Stone Curlew, and breeds on the South Downs, where its whistling note is frequently heard in a summer's evening.

evening. That most of these birds leave us in the autumn is most probable; but I have known one instance of its having been killed here in the winter.

No. 105.—The common Heron. *Ardea cinerea*.

Hérons frequent our marshes and sides of ponds in search of their food. They probably come hither from Penshurst Park in Kent, where there is a large Heronry; and vast numbers of their nests are to be seen in some very large tall beech-trees,—often many nests in one tree.

No. 106.—The Bittern. *Ardea stellaris*.

This bird is sometimes met with here, and in the spring is frequently heard to blow or make a loud hollow sound. This sound has been supposed from the bird's putting its bill into the hollow of a reed: this I suspect to be a vulgar error, and rather think that it is the call of love uttered, in the spring, by the male, to invite the female to him. I once shot one of these birds in frosty weather: it fell on the ice, which was only strong enough to support my dogs, and they immediately rushed forwards to attack, but, being only wounded, it defended itself so vigorously with its sharp-pointed bill, that not a dog would touch it, till I fired again and killed it.

No. 107.—The common Curlew. *Numenius Arquata*.

This bird is to be met with on our sea-coast, both in summer and winter.

No. 108.—The Whimbrel. *Numenius Phæopus*.

This bird is not so common as the foregoing species; I have met with only one instance of its being found here.

No. 110.

No. 110.—The Great Snipe. *Scolopax major*.

On the 1st of October 1793 I received this bird from a friend. I have no doubt of its being the *Scolopax major* of Mr. Latham, although it was inferior in size and weight, and differed somewhat in colour from that Gentleman's description; perhaps mine was a young bird.

No. 113.—The Red Godwit. *Scolopax lapponica*.

These birds are sometimes found on our sea-coast in great numbers. Many years ago, two persons fired amongst a flock of them, and killed ten: these were brought to me, and I made drawings from them; but have not seen one of the species since.

No. 115.—The common Godwit.—*Scolopax leucophæa*.

I believe this bird is not often met with here. The only one I ever saw, was one that I shot on the sea-coast at Bexhill on the 22d of September 1792; and I suspect that to have been a young bird; because it was of a very light colour, and its measurements were far short of Mr. Latham's. It was boring into the mud with its bill in search of food when I shot it.

No. 117.—The Grey Plover. *Tringa Squatarola*.

This bird is seen on our sea-coasts only in the winter, and then but seldom. I have seen only one, which was killed on the 13th of January 1776 by the sea-side at Bexhill.

No. 118.—The Green Sandpiper. *Tringa Ochropus*. }
The Wood Sandpiper. *Tringa Glareola*. }

These birds agree so nearly in size, mode of living, and other respects, that they are with the greatest probability supposed to be only varieties of the same species, perhaps male and female. A

few of these birds frequent the banks of the river at Horsham, and in 1793 I was in hopes that I should be able to ascertain whether it were so or not; but I could procure only one of them, which proved to be the *Tringa Ochropus*. The *Tringa Glareola* is described in the First Volume of the Linnean Transactions.

No. 119.—The common Sandpiper. *Tringa Hypoleucos*.

This is a solitary bird, frequenting the sides of ponds and rivulets. I never had but one in my possession, and that I shot by the side of a large mill-pond in the year 1773.

No. 120.—The Sea Sandpiper. *Tringa maritima*. *Lath. Orn.* 11.
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On the 8th of December 1796 a small flock, consisting of ten or twelve of these birds, were seen on the sea-coast near Bexhill: two of them were shot and brought to me.

Its length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail is eight inches and an half; its breadth from tip to tip of the wings when extended, fifteen inches and an half. Its bill is an inch and a quarter long, yellow from the base half way, and the tip black. Its weight is two ounces and an half. The head, neck, shoulders and back are of a dark dusky ash-colour, with the edges of each feather on the back somewhat lighter: the prime quill feathers of the wings are dusky, with their shafts white, particularly the first: the secondary quills are lighter, with white tips; and the hindermost are almost white, having only one dusky spot. The tail is short, and consists of twelve feathers, of which the four middlemost are of a dark dusky colour, and the four on each side *gradually* shorter, and of a pale ash-colour edged with white. The under-side of the neck and breast dusky, with the feathers on the breast fringed with white. The chin, lower part of the breast,



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breast, belly, thighs and vent white, except a few dusky spots on the sides, thighs and vent. The legs and feet are yellow, naked above the knees; and the toes entirely divided, without the least connecting membrane between any of them. The claws are blackish.

No. 121.—The Purre. *Tringa Cinclus*.

These birds are found in great flocks on our sea-coast in the winter. I have had several of them in my possession. There are three remarkable varieties of this species.

On the 1st of February 1776, a bird of the first variety, in its winter dress, from which I made this description and a figure, was shot on the sea-shore near Bexhill.

Its length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail is seven inches; its breadth from tip to tip of the wings when extended, thirteen inches and an half. Its bill is an inch and a quarter long, black, and rather bent or curved downwards near the tip. The top of the head, hinder part of the neck, and the back, are of a dusky brownish ash-colour, spotted with darker brown: the upper covert feathers of the wings are brown, with the edges of a lighter colour: the quill feathers of the wings of a blackish brown, having their bases and shafts white: the middle feathers of the tail of a dusky brown, and the rest lighter or whitish. The under side of the neck, and upper part of the breast, are of a pale dusky brown, spotted with darker brown: the rest of the breast, belly, and covert feathers under the tail, are of a pure white. The legs and feet are black, and have not any membrane or web between the joints of any of the toes.

I have since seen several of these birds in the winter, which all agreed exactly with the above description, except a small variation in respect to size.

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The second variety is in a mixed state, between its winter and summer dress. On the 18th of September 1792 I shot one of these birds, amongst ten or a dozen more, on the sea-shore at Bexhill.

Its length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail was seven inches; the breadth from tip to tip of the wings when extended, fourteen inches; and the bill, which was black and a little bent near the tip, one inch and a quarter long. The head and hinder part of the neck were variegated with reddish brown and black, the middle of the feathers being of a dark brown or black, with the edges of a pale reddish brown. The feathers on the shoulders were of an ash-coloured brown, and those on the back of a dark brown or black in the middle, having their edges of a pale yellowish or reddish brown, not very unlike those of the Jack Snipe. The covert feathers of the wings were dusky, edged with pale brown, and those next the quills tipped with white. The quills were of a dusky black with white shafts and bases. The tail was rather pointed; the two middlemost feathers were of a dark brown edged with light yellowish brown, and the rest were of a light ash-colour with white shafts. The chin, belly and vent were white, but the breast was of a light brown, streaked with darker brown; and the sides of the belly were also marked with dusky spots. The legs were naked above the knees, of a black colour; and the toes were entirely divided, without any web between them.

Some time about the middle of the summer 1795 I had an opportunity of seeing a bird of the third variety in its summer dress, whose whole upper side and breast were variegated with dusky and yellowish brown, the middle of the feathers being of a blackish, and the edges of a yellowish brown. Its chin, lower part of the breast, belly, thighs and vent were white; and its bill, legs and feet black.

All these birds agreeing exactly in size, shape, length and colour of the bill and legs, particularly in having the toes entirely divided, without any web between any of the joints; and, lastly, in the shafts of the quill feathers being white in all of them, induces me to look upon them as different varieties of the same species: if so, this bird not only changes its place of residence, but its dress also, according to the different seasons of the year.

No. 122.—The Dunlin. *Tringa alpina.*

On the 31st of May 1780 I saw this bird on the sea-shore at Bexhill: it suffered me to approach near enough to distinguish its colours, especially the black mark on its breast, as figured in the folio edition of the British Zoology.

No. 123.—The small grey Sandpiper. *Tringa arenaria.*

On the 31st of December 1793 a bird was brought to me which, I have no doubt, is the *Tringa arenaria* of Linnæus: its shape was short and thick, very different from that of the Sanderling or Cur-willet; and it had also a perfect back toe with a claw, which that bird is entirely destitute of. I was informed that it was killed on the sea-coast near Rye, and that they were seen there in flocks in the winter.

No. 124.—The Golden Plover. *Charadrius pluvialis.*

This species is frequently killed on our sea-coast in the winter; and, if my memory does not fail me, I have also shot it in the summer. But the most singular circumstance relating to this bird is, that it varies in one of its characteristic marks. Two birds of this species, from which I drew a figure and description, had no back toe, as appears both from my figure and description: and indeed, to the best of my recollection, none that I ever saw had any back

toe, except one I shot on the 22d of September 1792, which, to my great surprife, had a small back toe.

No. 125.—The Sea Lark. *Charadrius Hiaticula.*

These birds are very common on our sea-coast in the summer; but I have reason to think that they, or at least the generality of them, leave us in the winter; for, during my residence at Hastings, from the 19th of November 1792 to the 11th of February 1793, I never once saw this bird, although I was constantly on the look-out to take particular notice of this and other sea-birds: but I remember one instance of this bird's being killed during a hard frost in the winter by the sea-side, near Pevensey; and I have more than once observed it so early as February and March, particularly on the 19th of February 1787.

No. 126.—The Sanderling, or Curwillet. *Charadrius Calidris.*

These birds frequent our sea-coast in the winter, and are seen in large flocks. I received two of them in about a fortnight after I had drawn and described the small grey Sandpiper: they were so different from that bird in shape, colour, and particularly in the total want of a back toe, that I have no doubt of their being a distinct species, and even that they belong to a different genus, as Linnæus has placed them.

No. 127.—The Sea-Pie, or Oyster-catcher. *Hæmatopus ostrategus.*

It is called here the Olive. I have frequently seen them in pairs on our sea-coast in the summer, but do not recollect having ever seen them in the winter.

No. 133.—The Crested or Tippet Grebe. *Podiceps cristatus.*

This bird is sometimes found here in hard winters. In the year 1789 I had a dead bird of this species in my possession: its head
appeared

appeared to be quite smooth, without any crest, and I suppose it was either a female or a young bird; for, on the 27th of January in this present year 1795, a bird of this species was discovered sitting under a hedge in the parish of Battle, at the distance of six or seven miles from the sea: it was so much weakened by the severity of the frost, that it suffered itself to be taken, and was brought to me alive. I kept it alive till I had made drawings and a description of it, during which time it erected the feathers on the top of the head into two tufts or crests, and swelled out the white feathers beneath its cheeks into a kind of ruff, so as to make the head appear as if encircled by a sort of hood. It was very pugnacious, striking fiercely with its sharp bill whenever I put my hand near it, and at the same time uttered a harsh scream. According to authors this bird spends its life almost wholly in the water:—is it not singular then that it should be found on dry ground, not near any water, and at so great a distance from the sea, especially as its wings are so short and unfit for long flight?

No. 134.—The Eared or Lesser-crested Grebe. *Podiceps auritus.*

This bird is very rare in our neighbourhood: I have had one in my possession, which was killed in a fresh water pond on the 2d of May 1789.

No. 135.—The Avosetta. *Recurvirostra Avosetta.*

This bird is not uncommon on our sea-coast in summer; but whether it is to be found here in winter I cannot tell, as I do not recollect to have ever seen it at that season. That it breeds here I have been an eye-witness, for I remember that, several years ago, I found in the marshes near Rye, a young one of this species, which appeared to have been just hatched, and I took it up in my
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hands, whilst the old birds kept flying round me. I have also seen it in the summer on the sea-coast at Bexhill.

No. 136.—The Puffin. *Alca arctica.*

It is found on this coast, and known about East Bourn by the name of the Parrot-billed Wille.

No. 137.—The Razor-bill. *Alca Torda.*

I think this bird is known here by the name of the common Wille; if so, it breeds in vast numbers in the cliffs at Beachy Head.

No. 138.—The black-billed Auk. *Alca Pica.*

I believe it is sometimes found on our sea-coast. In the hard winter of 1789 a bird of the Auk kind was brought to me, which I took to be this species.

No. 139.—The Guillemot. *Colymbus Troille.*

I have seen one stuffed and preserved, which I understood was taken on this coast.

No. 140.—The speckled Diver. *Colymbus stellatus.*

It is found on this coast: I have seen one or two specimens of it.

No. 141.—The greater Tern. *Sterna Hirundo.*

No. 142.—The lesser Tern. *Sterna minuta.*

No. 143.—The black Tern. *Sterna fiffipes.*

The two first species are very common on our coast in the summer; but the black Tern is, I believe, very rare, for I never saw it but once.

No. 151.